

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Nine Mile Canyon
Special Recreation Management Area

Recreation Area Management Plan
Scoping Document

August 26, 2014

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Scoping Document

Purpose and Objective

1.1 Introduction

This scoping document solicits public comments to inform the development of an activity-level Recreation Area Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. The plan will implement decisions made in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Vernal and Price Field Offices' Resource Management Plans (RMPs, 2008) and actions prescribed by the West Tavaputs Programmatic Agreement (PA, 2010) in the Nine Mile Canyon (NMC) area.

1.2 Location and Setting

The Nine Mile Canyon area is rich in culture, wildlife and scenic beauty. The internationally-renowned prehistoric sites within the canyon have been called "the longest art gallery in the world," while the historic features of the canyon have regional significance. Visitors enjoy viewing wildlife along with the attractive cliffs and rugged scenery of the West Tavaputs Plateau in east-central Utah.

The planning area (Map 1) comprises the Nine Mile Canyon Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), as defined in the 2008 Price and Vernal RMPs. The Nine Mile Canyon SRMA encompasses a total of 68,468 acres, managed by the BLM's Price and Vernal Field Offices, and is located in Carbon, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties (Table 1). Much of the planning area (and the entire Vernal Field Office portion of the planning area) also falls within the Nine Mile Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The planning area includes portions of the 78-mile Nine Mile Canyon National Backcountry Byway.

Several of these designations overlap one another and may encompass lands beyond the NMC SRMA designated boundaries (PFO RMP 2008; VFO RMP 2008). While some designations share similar characteristics and management direction, others do not. Appendix 2 provides a description of each designation, their associated management direction and their role in the development of an updated NMC SRMA plan.

The planning area lies at an elevation between approximately 4,600 and 8,200 feet in the rugged canyon country of the West Tavaputs Plateau. Draining the West Tavaputs Plateau, upper tributaries start at 10,000 feet, and then reach Nine Mile Creek which flows from west to east into the Green River, reaching the Green at 4,614 feet. Two major tributaries flow into Nine Mile Creek from the northwest--Minnie Maud and Argyle Creeks. Smaller ephemeral streams, such as Cottonwood and Dry Canyon Creeks, drain into it from the Tavaputs Plateau to the south.

This scoping document establishes the framework for identifying alternative management directions for implementation actions in the NMC area within the Vernal and Price field offices SRMA boundaries.

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TABLE 1 – Land Administration

Land Administration	Number of Acres Price Field Office	Number of Acres Vernal Field Office
Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)	24,300	44,168
Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	26,200	44,168

1.3 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the EA is to provide guidance for the future management of the NMC area consistent with the 2008 Price RMP, 2008 Vernal RMP, and 2010 West Tavaputs PA. The focus of this plan is on the management of visitor-based recreation and the preservation and interpretation of cultural resources located in NMC. The plan will define visitor and resource management objectives consistent with land use plans and will describe actions needed to achieve these objectives.

As identified by existing planning documents (Nine Mile Canyon Special Recreation and Cultural Management Area Plan 1995; Scenic Byway N.D.; PFO RMP 2008; VFO RMP 2008; West Tavaputs Programmatic Agreement 2010), Nine Mile Canyon has abundant cultural and recreational values. The increased use and paving of the road through Nine Mile Canyon have made cultural sites in the area accessible to more vehicles, leading to concerns about management of cultural and recreational resources. To move forward, this planning effort will identify and resolve resource issues while considering the input of interested parties.

1.4 Objectives

The management principles for the SRMAs and ACECs identified within the Price and Vernal RMPs are summarized in Appendix 2. The SRMAs as established in the Price and Vernal RMPs can be further divided according to Recreation Management Zones and identified for specific types of recreation according to the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (Map 2) and for visual resource classes (Map 3).

In 2010, BLM agreed to additional management prescriptions as a result of the West Tavaputs Programmatic Agreement (PA), including the updating of the BLM's 1995 Recreation and Cultural Area Management Plan for Nine Mile Canyon. This EA is intended to meet the need for an implementation-level decision consistent with the objectives identified in the RMPs. The agency's objectives for management of the area as outlined in the RMPs are:

- Ensure the continued availability of quality outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences that are not readily available from other sources; protect the health and safety of visitors; protect natural, cultural, and other resources; encourage public enjoyment of public lands; and enhance recreational opportunities.

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- Work collaboratively with affected user groups and organizations, tribal governments, state and local officials, and other interested parties to provide for site-specific or area-specific comprehensive integrated activity level planning.
- Ensure there is a spectrum of recreation opportunities and settings through comprehensive integrated activity level planning.
- Maintain the natural character of the canyon. Protect the scientific value of cultural resources while allowing for their enjoyment. Provide quality interpretation to increase the appreciation and protection of cultural resources. Reduce conflicts between visitors and private land owners and energy development in the canyon.
- Additional objectives and issues will be identified throughout the scoping phase and analyzed during the Environmental Assessment process (PFO RMP 2008; VFO 2008).

The 1995 planning document identified a variety of management prescriptions, which this EA will address and update as needed. These constitute the preliminary issues to be addressed in the current EA, with additional issues to be incorporated depending on comments received during the scoping process:

- Opportunities and priorities for interpretive signs, kiosks, information stations, and other interpretive materials
- Opportunities and priorities for developed and primitive camp sites and dispersed camping
- Opportunities and priorities for developed recreation sites, including picnic areas, trailheads, toilets, and parking areas
- Opportunities for scientific use of cultural sites
- Priorities for stabilization of archaeological and historical sites
- Priorities for the inventory and nomination of sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places
- Opportunities and priorities for land tenure adjustments to enhance the visitor experience and/or protect cultural resources
- Implementation of the RMP decision that off-highway vehicles (OHVs) may be used on designated routes and future rehabilitation of non-designated routes
- Partnerships with counties for emergency services, county planning, and law enforcement in Nine Mile Canyon
- Priorities for a site stewardship program to protect cultural resources
- Maintenance of visual resource management (VRM) standards within Nine Mile Canyon
- Livestock grazing within and near developed recreation sites
- Protection of water quality and riparian areas within Nine Mile Canyon
- Management of wildlife habitat, including raptors, big game species, and the greater sage-grouse
- Management of rock-climbing, bouldering, mountain biking, and recreational target shooting activities
- Management of special recreation permits (e.g. outfitting and guiding, organized group events, commercial recreational use, and competitive recreational use)
- Opportunities for volunteer work and coordination of volunteer activities

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1.5 Decision to Be Made

A Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for the BLM Price and Vernal Field Offices that would provide for the implementation of an Interpretative Program and a Site Stewardship Program for the Nine Mile Canyon Area as provided for in the RMPs and the PA.

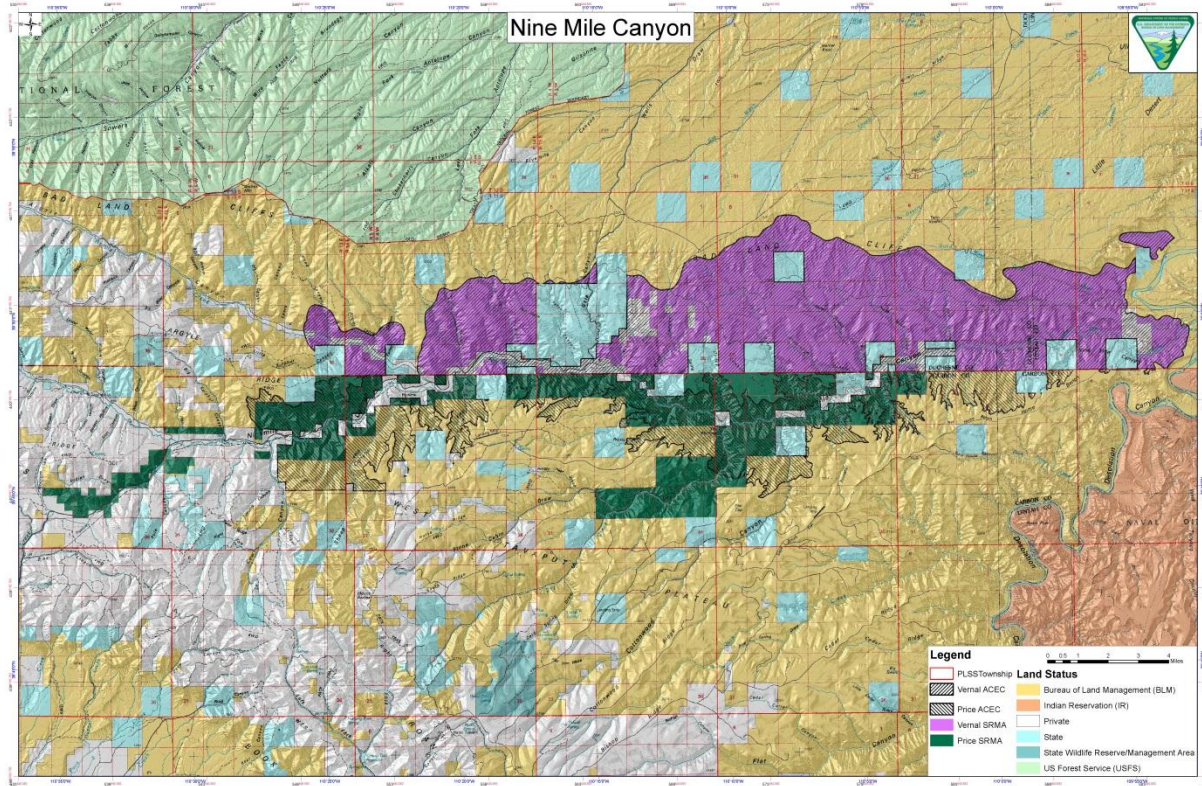
Throughout the process of developing the EA, the BLM will adhere to the following principles:

- Development of decision making processes using RMP guidelines and criteria which provide for public review, and understanding.
- Seek simplicity. Use plain language for management direction and public understanding to avoid complications and misunderstanding.
- Take into consideration budget needs, available personnel, constraints, and foreseeable challenges for future initiatives.
- Resolution of conflicts in NMC requires innovative management approaches that cross a wide spectrum of resources and those perceived resource values.

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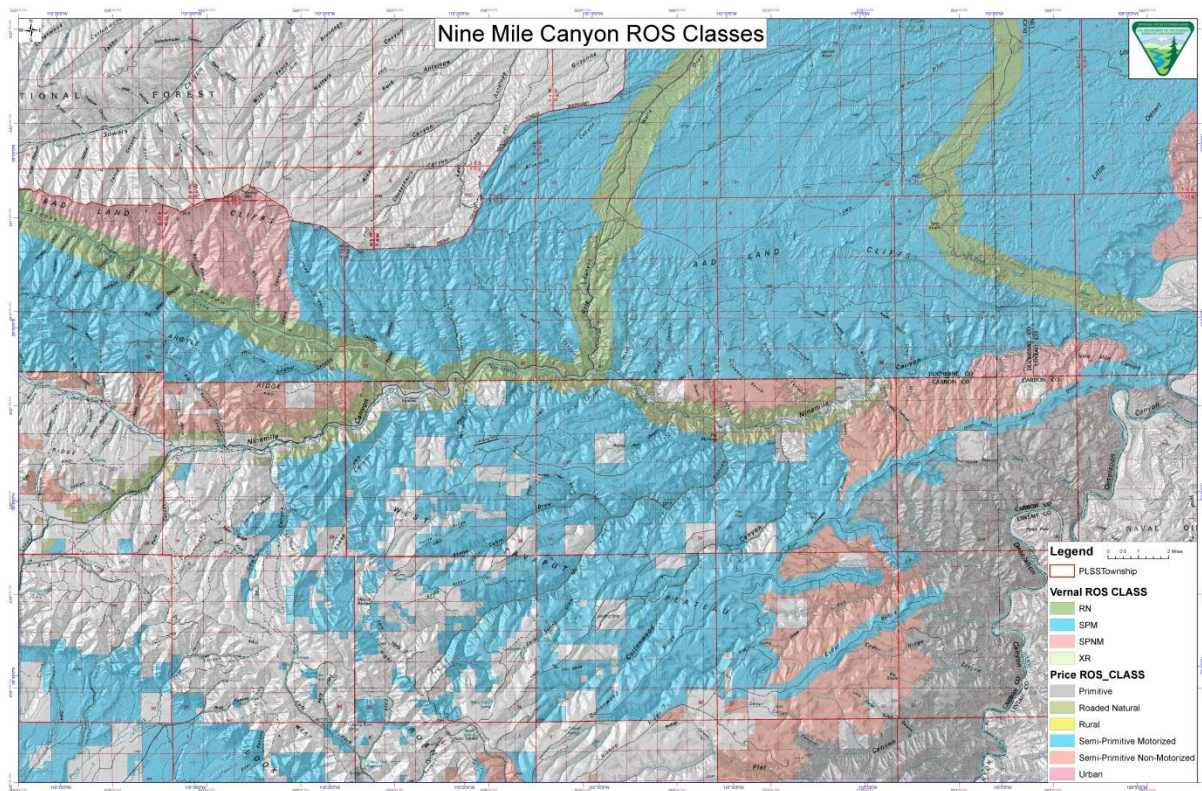
Maps

Map 1 – Planning Area



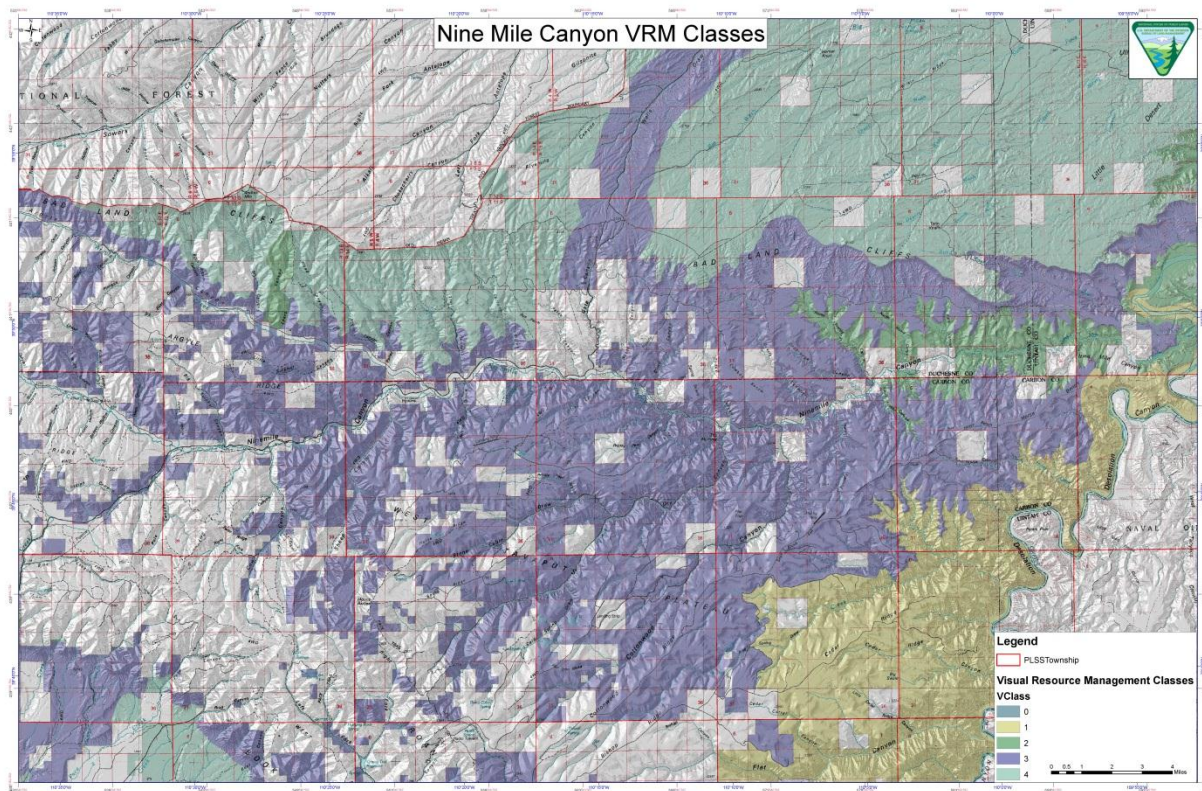
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Map 2 – Nine Mile Canyon ROS Classes



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Map 3 – Nine Mile Canyon VRM Classes



Appendix 1 – Applicable Authorities

Laws and Mandates Guiding the Management of Nine Mile Canyon SRMA

The following laws, policies, and regulations guide management on the NMC SRMA:

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 – Public Law 94-579, gives the BLM legal authority to establish public land policy, to establish guidelines for administering such policy and to provide for the management, protection, development, and enhancement of the public land.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 – The NEPA requires that all Federal agencies conduct detailed planning in full consultation with the public on any action that may significantly affect the quality of the human and natural environment.

National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 – The NHPA requires all Federal agencies to administer federally owned, administered, or controlled prehistoric and historic resources in a spirit of stewardship for the inspiration and benefit of present and future generations. 36 CFR 800 and Section 106, in particular, stipulates that prior to the expenditure of any Federal funds on any project, the agency must take into account the effect of the undertaking on any historic properties.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979 – The ARPA provides protection for archaeological resources on public lands by prohibiting the "excavation, removal, damage or defacing of any archaeological resource located on public lands or Indian lands," and set up criminal penalties for these acts. It also encourages increased cooperation and exchange of information between governmental authorities, the professional archaeological community, and private individuals having archaeological resources and data which were obtained before October 31, 1979.

In addition to these rules, the SRMA will include all applicable Federal laws, regulations, executive orders, and policies. The additional laws, which will define BLM's responsibilities when analyzing environmental impacts, may include:

- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, 42 U.S.C. 1996
- Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.
- Clean Water Act of 1977, 33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq.
- Clean Water Act of 1987
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9615
- Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.
- Executive Order 11988, as amended, Floodplain Management, May 24, 1977
- Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, May 24, 1977
- Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards (Amended by Executive Order 12580 Superfund Implementation), October 13, 1978, February 23, 1987
- BLM Manual 1601 – Land Use Planning
- BLM Manual 8100 – The Foundation for Managing Cultural Resources

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- BLM Manual 8110 – Identifying and Evaluating Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8120 – Tribal Consultation Under Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8130 – Planning for Uses of Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8140 – Protecting Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8150 – Permitting Uses of Cultural Resources
- BLM Manual 8170 – Interpreting Cultural Resources for the Public
- BLM Manual 8320 – Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services

Price Field Office Record of Decision Approved Management Plan (2008) – The PFO RMP will provide guidance for the management of about 2,500,000 acres of Federal surface estate and 2,800,000 acres of Federal mineral estate administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Carbon and Emery Counties in central-eastern Utah.

Vernal Field Office Record of Decision Approved Management Plan (2008) – The VFO RMP will provide guidance for the management of over 1.7 million acres of public land and 3.9 million acres of Federal mineral estate administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah, and a small portion of Grand Counties in Northeast Utah.

Appendix 2 – Resource Management Plan Decisions

Price Field Office Resource Management Plan	Vernal Field Office Resource Management Plan
Total Acres: The BLM PFO management area	Total Acres: The BLM VFO management area
Management Decisions as defined by RMP	
<p><u>CULTURAL RESOURCES (CUL)</u></p> <p>Goals and Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (FLPMA Sections 103(c), 201(a), and 202(c); National Historic Preservation Act [NHPA] Section 110(a); Archaeological Resource Protection Act [ARPA] Section 14(a)). • Identify priority geographic areas for new field inventory, based on a probability for unrecorded significant resources, to reduce imminent threats from natural or human-caused deterioration or potential conflict with other resource uses (ARPA Section 14(a); NHPA Sections 106 and 110). <p>Cultural resources will be allocated to the</p>	<p><u>CULTURAL RESOURCES (CUL)</u></p> <p>Goals and Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and protect a representative array of significant cultural resources, including but not limited to traditional cultural properties, traditional use areas, rock art, and ceremonial sites, and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations. • Preserve and protect cultural resources in accordance with existing laws, regulations, and Executive Orders (EO), in consultation with designated contacts from Native American tribes and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations. • Preserve and conserve cultural resources by conducting activities in a way that protect values and provide for the following benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation for future use

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<p>following use categories identified and described in BLM-M-8110.4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Use • Public Use • Conservation for Future Use • Traditional Use • Experimental Use • Discharged from Management. <p>Management Decisions</p> <p>CUL-1 Complete an appropriate cultural resources inventory before approving permitted federal undertakings that could affect cultural resources or historic properties.</p> <p>CUL-2 Mitigate adverse impacts on cultural resources eligible for listing on the NRHP resulting from authorized federal undertakings (permitted activities, recreational use, OHV use, etc.) that could affect cultural resources or historic properties.</p> <p>CUL-3 Manage cultural resources according to the management objectives for the use category to which each cultural resource site is assigned.</p> <p>CUL-4 Cultural resources will be allocated according to the following use categories identified and described in BLM-M-8110.4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Use • Public Use • Conservation for Future Use • Traditional Use • Experimental Use • Discharged from Management. <p>CUL-5 Allocations to the use categories will be made during implementation and activity level planning.</p> <p>CUL-6 Cultural resource use allocations will be reevaluated and revised, as needed, when circumstances change or when new data become available.</p> <p>CUL-7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Interpretation • Public use • Research <p>Management Decisions</p> <p>CUL-1 Protect burial sites, associated burial goods, and sacred items in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).</p> <p>CUL-2 Evaluate cultural resources according to National Register criteria (36 CFR Part 60.4) and assign cultural resources to appropriate use categories as the basis for management decisions.</p> <p>CUL-3 Encourage public/volunteer involvement in the management of cultural resources by establishing site stewardship and other programs.</p> <p>CUL-4 Specific plans will be developed for culturally sensitive areas unless included in other integrated activity plans. Such plans will include protective measures, Native American consultation, and regulatory compliance. These plans will also include but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a site monitoring system • Identifying sites in need of stabilization, restoration, and protective measures (e.g., fences, surveillance equipment) • Developing research designs for selected sites/areas • Designating sites/areas for interpretive development • Identifying areas for cultural inventory where federal undertakings are expected to occur • Developing specific mitigation measures <p>The plan will designate sites, districts, landmarks, and landscapes that will be nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).</p>
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Areas for new field inventories will be prioritized as follows:

- Areas of special cultural designation (e.g., ACECs, RNAs, NHLs, and National Register sites) that have not been fully inventoried
- Resources eligible for the NRHP at a national level of significance that have not been fully inventoried
- Cultural resources sites identified for public use
- Five-mile vulnerability zones surrounding cities and towns and 400 feet from the centerline on designated OHV trails.

CUL-8

Cultural resources inventories, including point, area, and linear features, will be required for all federal undertakings that could affect cultural resources or historic properties in areas of direct and indirect impacts.

CUL-9

The BLM will coordinate with tribes or other cultural groups to identify and manage traditional cultural properties.

CUL-10

The BLM will seek agreements with the tribes or other cultural groups to identify the types of projects or areas where they desire consultation.

CUL-11

The following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will apply to management of linear cultural resources:

- Record the site at the point of the project. Unless specific features are identified at that portion of the resource, no mitigation is required.

CUL-5

Limit land-disturbing activities within selected Native American traditional cultural and religious sites for continued use by tribes. Traditional cultural sites will be selected in consultation with interested Native American tribes and communities.

CUL-6

Consult with Native American tribes for the protection of areas and items of traditional life-ways and religious significance that includes but is not limited to burials, rock art, traditional use areas, religiously active areas, and sacred sites.

CUL-7

Pursue appropriate National Register designation, including but not limited to currently eligible sites under current policy and guidance.

CUL-8

Conduct an inventory according to professional standards commensurate with the land-use activity, environmental conditions, and the potential for cultural resources.

CUL-9

Proactively reduce hazardous fuels or mitigate the potential hazard around archaeological and cultural sites that are susceptible to destruction by fire from prescribed fire activities.

CUL-10

Conduct consultation process to identify both the resource management concerns and the strategies for addressing them through an interactive dialogue with appropriate Native American communities.

CUL-11

Reduce or eliminate imminent threats from natural or human-caused deterioration or conflict with other resource uses.

CUL-12

Identify priority geographic areas for new field inventory based upon a probability for unrecorded significant resources.

CUL-13

Ensure that all authorizations for land and resource use will comply with Section 106 of

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	<p>the National Historic Preservation Act, consistent with and subject to the goals and objectives identified at the beginning of this section for the proactive use of cultural properties in the public interest.</p> <p>CUL-14 The BLM, in coordination with the appropriate county, will continue to identify, evaluate, and nominate historic routes for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places.</p> <p>CUL-15 When new sites are discovered, interim protection may be applied, if warranted.</p> <p>CUL-16 Provide for legitimate field research by qualified scientists and institutions.</p> <p>CUL-17 Allow for reconstruction, stabilization, maintenance, and interpretation of selected sites for public enjoyment and education.</p> <p>CUL-18 Continue to implement, maintain, and revise as necessary the Nine Mile Canyon Recreation/Cultural Management Plan that includes developing interpretive facilities at appropriate archeological and cultural sites at Nine Mile Canyon in cooperation with the Price Field Office (PFO), the Nine Mile coalition team, and the counties. Promote collaborative partnerships to assist in meeting management goals and objectives for cultural resources.</p> <p>CUL-19 Should National Register–eligible cultural resources be found during an inventory, impacts to them will be mitigated, generally through avoidance. If it is determined the cultural resources cannot be avoided; consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) will be initiated. A program on mitigation will be developed via consultation between VFO, the SHPO, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).</p> <p>CUL-20 VFO will continue to allocate cultural sites,</p>
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	<p>including ethnographic properties, to one of six management categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation • Discharged • Experimental • Public • Scientific • Traditional <p>CUL-21 Implement regular patrols as feasible to monitor and protect known cultural sites.</p> <p>CUL-22 Establish and implement protective measures for sites, structures, objects, and traditional use areas that are important to Native American tribes with historical and cultural connections to the land, in order to maintain the view shed, intrinsic values, and the auditory, visual, and aesthetic settings of the resources. Protection measures for undisturbed cultural resources and their natural setting will be developed in compliance with regulatory mandates and Native American consultation.</p> <p>CUL-23 Nominate eligible sites, districts, landscapes, and traditional cultural properties for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Manage National Register listed and eligible sites for their local, regional, and national significance.</p> <p>CUL-24 On- and off-site interpretive facilities will be developed at appropriate archeological, historical, and cultural sites in a manner that will not adversely impact the site.</p>
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Price Field Office (INSERT HYPER LINK)	Vernal Field Office (INSERT HYPER LINK)
Total Acres: The BLM PFO management area	Total Acres: The BLM VFO management area
Management Decisions as defined by RMP	
<p><u>RECREATION (REC) AND OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHV)</u></p> <p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish management that provides 	<p><u>RECREATIONAL RESOURCES (REC): SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS (SRMA) AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT (TMD)</u></p>

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<p>necessary public services, authentic recreation experience, and opportunity within allowable use levels; minimizes user conflicts; and maintains the healthy ecosystems and settings that provide the basis for recreation opportunity and experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an environment for and encourage entrepreneurial activities that are supportive of the recreation program goals and objectives. <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage all SRMAs to provide the benefits, experiences, and opportunities identified for each. • Use the ROS classification system in SRMAs as a guide to decision making on projects with the potential to alter the physical, managerial, or social settings that create the opportunities and experiences. • Develop a Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) for all designated SRMAs. • Review and update the Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry RAMP. • Review and update the Desolation and Gray Canyons of the Green River, River Management Plan. • Use recreation permitting to direct and manage recreation use. <p>Management Decisions: REC -1 Manage recreation generally guided by the <i>Standards for Rangeland Health</i> and <i>Guidelines for Recreation Management for BLM Lands in Utah</i>. The guidelines describe, in a broad sense, the procedures that should be applied to achieve standards for rangeland health within the recreation program.</p> <p>REC-2 Portions of the PFO not identified as a SRMA will be identified as an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). ERMAs will</p>	<p>Goals and Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the continued availability of quality outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences that are not readily available from other sources; protect the health and safety of visitors; protect natural, cultural, and other resources; encourage public enjoyment of public lands; and enhance recreational opportunities. • Work collaboratively with affected user groups and organizations, state and local officials, and other interested parties to provide for site-specific or area-specific comprehensive integrated activity level planning. • Ensure there is a spectrum of recreation opportunities and settings through comprehensive integrated activity level planning. Such plans will include, but are not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation use allocations • Group size or seasonal limitations • Opportunities for dispersed or organized camping, including large events • Facility development • Opportunities for interpretation or other signage • Campfire restrictions • Establish limits of acceptable change or other environmental indicators in order to provide for adaptive management. <p>Management Decisions: REC-8 All developed recreation sites within VFO will be closed to the shooting of firearms, closed to grazing, and all forms of surface-disturbing activities not directly related to recreation development.</p> <p>REC-12 Maintain or expand infrastructure of all recreational sites, including, but not limited to, cabins, restrooms, campsites, and trail head development and ensure their safety for public use.</p>
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receive only custodial management (which addresses only activity opportunities) of visitor health and safety, user conflict, and resource protection issues with no activity-level planning. Therefore, actions within ERMAs will generally be implemented directly from LUP decisions, such as Special Recreation Permits (SRP) or OHV management decisions. See Appendix R-9 for additional specific recreation management objectives for the PFO ERMA.

Recreation Activity Prescriptions and Guidance:

REC-3

Allow dispersed camping throughout the PFO without permit, unless otherwise designated by the BLM. Determine and designate areas for dispersed camping and associated access routes with the cooperation of the counties.

REC-4

Prohibit rock climbing above or within 300 feet horizontally of cultural sites. Rock climbing activities will be authorized only in areas where there are no conflicts with cliff-nesting raptors.

REC-5

Manage developed recreation sites as recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry or as open to oil and gas leasing subject to major constraints (NSO).

REC-6

Close developed recreational sites to grazing and include fencing the site in the development plan when appropriate.

REC-7

Address non-motorized and motorized recreational trails in activity level plans (e.g., designation and/or development of routes/trail systems, maintenance, how the trails relate to the ERMA, SRMA, and specific RMZs, etc.).

REC-8

Allow mountain biking on all routes designated for OHV use and on June's Bottom and Black Dragon Canyon routes and other

Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA)

SMRA-5

Nine Mile Canyon (44,168 acres) will continue to be managed as an SRMA. An activity management plan will be developed and implemented consistent with overall management objectives. In the recreation portion of the plan, protection of high-value cultural resources and scenic vistas will be emphasized.

Trail Maintenance and Development (TMD) TMD-6

Up to 400 miles of hiking, horseback riding, and mechanized (non-motorized) trails will be signed, improved, and/or developed in the following areas:

- Bitter Creek
- Boulevard Ridge
- Burnt Timber Canyon
- Centennial Book Cliffs Trail
- Chipeta Canyon
- Daniels Canyon
- Devils Hole
- Green River
- Dry Fork
- Ely/Rainbow Park
- Home Mountain
- Little Mountain
- Nine Mile
- Rat Hole Canyon
- Spitzenberg/Warren Ridge
- Taylor Canyon
- Westwater Point
- Willow Creek
- Yellow Pine
- Other additional trails

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routes or areas designated for mountain bike use. Designation of additional mountain bike areas or routes will occur through activity plans.

REC-9

Continue to manage and maintain developed recreation sites. Sites administered by the PFO are Daddy Canyon Recreation Site (RS), Price Canyon RS, Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry, Cedar Mountain RS, Buckhorn Pictograph Panel, San Rafael Bridge RS, Swaseys Cabin RS, Little Wild Horse Canyon RS, Wedge Overlook RS, and Temple Mountain RS. Sites located in other field office areas and maintained by the PFO are Lower Gray Canyon RS, Mineral Bottom RS, and Sand Wash RS.

REC-10

Develop new sites in response to user demand, amenity value, and critical resource protection needs.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS):

REC-11

Within SRMAs, manage for Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), as identified in the ROS inventory (Map R-14). (See Appendix R- 9 for description of ROS settings). Recreation facilities will be developed only in response to resource management needs and will be appropriate to the managerial setting identified for each ROS class.

Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) :

REC-12

Adjust RMZs identified in this RMP through their respective SRMA activity plan, as necessary.

REC-13

Designate all SRMAs as special areas (Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act [2004]), and if needed, require permits and payment of fees for recreational use (Map R-14). Activity plans will be created or updated for all

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SRMAs.

REC-14

Conduct all recreation management activities and developments in the SRMA in support of the individual SRMA goals and objectives.

Nine Mile Canyon SRMA:

REC-56

Specific recreation management direction for the Nine Mile Canyon SRMA is contained in Appendix R-9. This includes direction for the following recreation management components: Market Strategy; Market; Niche; Management Goals; Management Objectives; Primary Activities; Experiences; and Benefits.

REC-57

The Nine Mile Canyon SRMA will be managed in coordination with the Vernal Field Office according to the *1995 Recreation and Cultural Area Management Plan* except as modified by the management alternatives listed below. Such changes include VRM objectives.

REC-58

The Nine Mile Canyon SRMA will be created as indicated on Map R-14 (24,300 Acres).

REC-59

The purpose of the Nine Mile Canyon SRMA will be to manage recreation and interpretive activities related to the cultural and historic resources and landscapes in the area.

REC-60

Oil and gas will be open to leasing subject to minor constraints (timing limitations, controlled surface use, lease notices), except where the Nine Mile Canyon ACEC overlaps the SRMA. Where this overlap exists in the SRMA, the area will be open to leasing with major constraints (NSO).

REC-61

Development will be required to meet VRM II and III objectives (Map R-5).

REC-62

ROS class semi-primitive non-motorized areas will be closed to OHV use. No facilities will be located in these areas.

REC-63

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The remainder of the area will be limited to designated routes, including all BLM and county system roads.

REC-64

ROS roaded natural (RN) class areas will contain visitor facilities, directional signage, interpretive materials, and infrastructure to support visitor health and safety, visitor appreciation of cultural resources, and resource protection.

REC-65

Private enterprise on private lands in support of public visitation within RN class areas will be encouraged by the BLM.

REC-66

The Nine Mile Canyon area will be closed to camping on public lands except for designated areas.

Special Recreation Permits:

REC-72

The BLM will issue SRP as a discretionary action subject to NEPA analysis (Appendix R-10). Additionally, commercial SRPs will also be issued to provide a fair return for the commercial use of public lands.

REC-73

SRPs will be issued according to established evaluation factors described in Appendix R-10. The factors identified will primarily examine the sensitivity of the proposed site and the nature of the proposed use.

REC-75

The BLM could require permits and/or charge fees in all special areas

REC-76

Vending could be authorized in conjunction with organized events or when the vending is necessary to support resource protection or appropriate recreation use. Vending permits could also be authorized to enhance recreational experience.

Price	Vernal Field Office (INSERT HYPER LINK)
Total Acres: 26,200	Total Acres: 44,168

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Management Decisions as defined by RMP	
<p><u>NMC ACEC</u></p> <p>Nine Mile Canyon—Relevant and Important Values: Cultural: ACEC-10</p> <p>Rationale: This area holds significant prehistoric archaeological resources. Nine Mile Canyon is known to contain the country's highest concentration of rock art panels, remnants of the prehistoric Archaic, Fremont, and Ute cultures. About 80 percent of the known sites are rock art.</p> <p>This ACEC is within the BLM Vernal and Price Field Offices.</p> <p>Manage the area as an ACEC (26,200 acres). Special management prescriptions will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil and gas will be open to leasing subject to major constraints (NSO) • Split estate will be open to oil and gas leasing subject to minor constraints (CSU) • VRM Class II and III in selected areas as indicated on Map R-5 • Utility corridor will be allowed as shown on Map R-21 <p>In addition, the following general management prescriptions will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit OHV use to designated routes • Open to disposal of mineral materials • Oil and gas development in the Nine Mile Canyon ACEC will be permitted after compliance with the NHPA 	<p><u>SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS: AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC)</u></p> <p>Goals and Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate and manage areas as ACECs where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish and wildlife resources; or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. <p>ACEC-10</p> <p>Nine Mile Canyon (44,168 acres) with a boundary along the upper rim will continue to be designated as an ACEC. The area will be managed to enhance cultural and special status plant species while enhancing scenic vistas, recreation, and wildlife resource values. A comprehensive integrated activity plan will be developed and implemented. OHV use will be limited to designated routes. Visual Resources will be managed as Class II and Class III. For oil and gas leasing within Nine Mile Canyon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 26,797 acres will be open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form. • Approximately 209 acres will be open to leasing subject to moderate constraints such as TLs and CSU. • Approximately 17,162 acres will be open to leasing subject to major constraints such as NSO stipulations. • Zero acres will be unavailable for leasing.

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Appendix 3 – Process

9 MILE CANYON SRMA PHASES

Scoping

- Prepare Scoping Document
- Public Review of Scoping Document
- Identify Issues & Concerns
- Coordinate with Affected Federal, State, County, City, Tribal governments

Formulate Alternatives

- Develop Alternatives Based on Issues & Concerns
- Identify Reasonable Alternatives, including the No Action
- Delineate Project Area and Analysis Areas

Conduct Analysis & Prepare EA

- Describe the Affected Env.
- Describe Direct, Indirect & Cumulative Impacts of the Alternatives
- Develop Mitigation and Monitoring Measures
- Document Consultations

Public Review & Comment

- Post Environmental Assessment for a 30-day Public Review & Comment
- Review, Evaluate & Prepare Responses to Comments

Select Alternative Issue Decision

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